

PATENT
Atty Docket No. 62318
FIRST CLASS MAIL

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): S. Levin et al.

Group No. 3671

Serial No.: 09/531,735

Examiner: Arpad F. Kovacs

Filed: 21 March 2000

For: Lawnmower Cutting Deck and
Releasable Blade

Box RCE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Dear Sir:

This Paper is submitted with the Request For Continued Examination (RCE). This paper is a Reply to accompany the RCE, and is submitted in response to the Final Office Action of September 3, 2002, and the Advisory Action of February 12, 2003.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1662.

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks and entry of this paper is respectfully requested. Moreover, the applicants have reviewed the Final Office Action of September 3,

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being

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2002 and Advisory Action of February 12, 2003, and submit that this paper is responsive to all points raised therein.

Claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Weber (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,413).

Claims 9 and 12 recite a blade and blade body, respectively, and a receiver. The receiver has flexible members with ends and portions, respectively, these ends or portions are configured such that pressure thereon moves the flexible members outward. As a result of this structure, the blade can be placed onto and removed from the stub absent any tools, or "tools free", making changing of the blades a simple and quick operation. Moreover, removal of the blade from the stub requires pressure to be placed on the ends or portions of the flexible members such that they can be moved clear of the stub, as the blade is normally firmly engaged on the stub.

Weber teaches a blade 12 and spring clips 13 formed from a single piece of sheet metal. These spring clips 13 are single strips that move outward then inward when mounted to the cylindrical portion 20 of the insulating hub, to fit over the hub, with the inwardly curved portions of the clips 13 engaging the annular groove 19.

Weber is different from the claimed invention, as these spring clips 13 are strips that move outward as a whole when the blade 12 is mounted to the hub. Weber lacks any structure on these spring clips, corresponding to the recited ends or portions in the claims, that when pressured will move the spring clips outward. For this reason, Weber fails to show the claimed invention and therefore, claims 9 and 12 are not anticipated by Weber under 35 USC 102(b).

Additionally, the curved shape of the spring clips 13 allows the blade 12 of the Weber device to be easily attached to and removed from the hub. Since these clips 13 alone allow for the retention and removal of the blade, there is no motivation for the skilled artisan to add

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additional structures, similar or analogous to the recited ends and portions of the flexible members, of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 9 and 12 are also non-obvious in view of Weber.

Since claims 9 and 12 are neither anticipated by Weber under 35 USC 102(b), nor obvious in view of Weber, claims 10 and 11, and 13, respectively dependent thereon, are also allowable over this cited art for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention from this cited art.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Entry of this paper and allowance of all pending claims, 9-13, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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